

one, in this vast universe that is wrong is man; and the particular part of his being that is out of gear is his heart. If God have the heart; he has all; if he have not, he has nothing.

See to it, young friend, that you are not "under the power" of any amusement; and more mature friends, see to it that you are not under the power of anything else.

Were I, however, asked to give any opinion in regard to the amusements about which there is such diversity of opinion, I should answer that they are as incongruous to the solution of the crucial question concerning both society and the individual as it would be for a drowning man to ask his rescuer which way the wind was blowing.

The Christian Life

What God Wills

What God wills, that I am willing!
Can I ever say Him nay?
Fire and flood His deed fulfilling
Making for His feet a way.
Ah! God's yea and nay shall be,
Ever yea and nay to me.

What God wills as to correcting,
What shall always be my rule;
Why should pupil make objection,
Sitting in the Master's school?
Flesh and blood the stroke would shun,
Still I say, God's will be done!

What God wills, when I am praying,
As to measure, time and term;
I can trust e'en His delaying,
That may be His glory's germ.
Give He many, give He few,
What have I with that to do?

—J. E. Rankin, in *Christian Observer*.

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

THE PARABLES—"THE ELDER BROTHER"

I. *The Parable. Luke 15: 25-32.*

a. Comparisons. 1. Both were selfish. The younger left home because he thought he could do better for *himself* somewhere else and the elder stayed at home for the same reason.

b. Contrasts. 1. The younger wasted his fortune and the elder saved his. Prov. 23: 21; 31: 3; and 13: 7. 2. The younger was a sinner in a far country; the elder was a sinner at home. 3. The younger repented; the elder was so wrapped up in self that he didn't know he needed repentance. Luke 15: 10; Rom. 3: 23. 4. The younger was not jealous of the elder's prosperity; the elder envied the younger, even his joyful reception by their father. Ps. 37: 1.

II Lessons

a. Selfishness is a sin, and the parent of many others. Rom. 14: 7; 15: 1; Jas. 2: 8; I Cor. 10: 24; II Cor. 5: 15-17; Phil. 2: 4, 21.

b. A person can be very moral and yet be a great sinner. Zech. 4: 6; Luke 18: 18.

c. God always kills the fatted calf for the penitent.

d. Jealousy is a sin. Prov. 6: 34, 35.

e. The Prodigal represents the reckless sinner, the Elder Brother, the moral sinner.

J. L. GILLIN.

How to Fill Churches

D. L. Moody, the noted evangelist, in his simple and characteristic way tells how ministers may fill their churches—something in which every pastor and Christian worker is interested. He says:

To begin with, the minister must be one called of God to the work of the ministry, with a love in his heart for the souls of his fellow-men; to any other I have no advice to give save that he leave the ministry at once, and seek God's forgiveness for his sin. To the minister called of God I would say:

First, break up any formalism which may exist in the church. To do this the members should be put to work. In the church, as elsewhere, the devil finds mischief for idle hands. Each man should be made to feel that he is a factor in the success of his church, and in proportion as he is made to feel this, will he do to bring success.

It is an easy thing for the pastor to drift into the habit of taking all the work to himself—to do all the praying, lead all the singing, look after all the committees, and otherwise do all. Such a working minister will fail to hold the people and fill his church. Let the people work.

Second, have a successful prayer meeting. The minister should not think it enough to announce from the pulpit the weekly prayer meeting, but should work it up all the week; privately invite people to the meetings and urge upon them to speak. I had a prayer meeting which was cold, and the people were too timid to take part in the service. I spoke to one man, telling him I wanted him to be out that week, and tell some of his Christian experience, urging as a reason that others would thus be benefited. He said, oh, no, he could not do that, he was too backward to speak in public; but I urged till he consented to come and be the first to speak. I then got a dozen others to promise the same thing, and on the same night they rose up all at once to speak, and as a result interest was awakened, and we had soon a live, well-attended prayer meeting.

Third, preach every Sunday night from some gospel theme announced beforehand, nothing sensational or political, but the gospel. Then go and send out and invite the people; if convenient, put a blackboard up outside the church on which is stated the time and theme of discourse, with an invitation to all. I do not believe God wants any man to preach to empty pews, but some ministers are too dignified to do as I have said, and I want to say that dignity and empty pews go together.

Some ministers have fairly good congregations Sunday morning and few at night. Such a one is a dead failure, no matter how many people he has in the morning. Night is the time to reach the non-churchgoers, and so every Sunday night the minister should aim at conversions, and an after meeting should be held each night.

Then there should be plenty of good singing—not "fine" singing; "fine" music

is sung, the choir does all the singing, and death is the result. I once went to a church to hold a meeting. The choir sang one "fine" hymn after another, and the people could not join. Well, I thought I would get the better of the choir, and have all sing; so I asked for "Rock of Ages," when, bless your soul! they started it in a tune I had never heard before, and none save the choir sang again. I repeat, sing plenty of good old gospel hymns. Sermons die, hymns never. Look at the Wesleys—the sermons are forgotten; the hymns of the other will live forever.

If you must have a choir, see to it that each member of the choir is also a member of the church. A choir with an ungodly singer is a curse to the progress of any church. It is no more inconsistent to have an ungodly minister than to have ungodly people singing in the church choir.

In conclusion, never give up your Sunday-night service. A great many ministers will close the doors of their churches on Sabbath night to allow their people to go to other places. God calls you to preach the gospel, and of all other times Sunday night is your best time to win souls. Why, I would not give up my service Sunday night, not if Gabriel was to preach around the corner. Stick to your pulpit Sunday night, for he who does not, fails to do the work for which he declares he is called of God.

The Sunday School

LESSON FOR JUNE 4

BY THE EDITOR

Christ Crucified. John 19: 17-30

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha:

18 Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.

21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.

22 Pilate answered, What I have written, I have written.

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top thru-out.

24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.